State as well, Telephone Registration Charges have been reduced from Rs. 2000^- to Rs. lOOO'- for Urban Areas and the CGMs in all Telecom Circles have been empowered to reduce Registration Charges to 'nil' in areas where telephones are available on demand and they are able to sustain as such.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Internet Services in Chhattisgarh

† 1187. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Chhattisgarh connected with the internet services;

(b) the details of the facilities provided to these districts;

(c) the number of hours these services remained out of order in different districts during last eighteen months, district-wise; and

(d) the details of the measures taken to make available this service in each district regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Internet services are available in all the 16 Districts of Chhattisgarh.

(b) The following facilities arc provided:—

i) Internet access to the nearest Internet node at local call charges,

ii) Web browsing service with free e-mail id with every account,

iii) Free Internet access for Internet Dhabas in Rural areas,

(iv) Free access from 11.00 PM to 8.00 AM on week days and for full day on Sunday and National Holidays.

These facilities are extended nation-wide.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Internet services were affected for 192 hours at Bastar, Dantewada, Kanker, Raigarh & Jashpur Districts.

(d) Urgent actions were taken to rectify the faults and set right the services from time to time. Migration of subscribers from VSNL servers to National Internet Backbone (NIB) has been completed.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices in Punjab

† 1188. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for upgradation of branch post offices in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise;

(c) the number of branch post offices functioning in the State at present, district-wise;

(d) whether Government have received any application for opening of branch post offices in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAP AN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The following four proposals for upgradation of Branch Post Offices are under consideration:—

i) Fatehgarh Pajtoor, District Moga.
ii) Mehraj, District Bathinda.
iii) Baradwal, District Sangrur.
iv) Bhuchokala, District Bathinda.

(c) District-wise number of Branch Post Offices functioning in the State at present is given in statement-I *(See* below).

(d) and (e) The opening of new branch post offices, in response to 7 representations received so far and mentioned in statement-II is subject to the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.